



# Leave some of your crop unharvested

## What to do:

Most harvesting equipment leaves behind some waste grain or crop and it is easy to see how quickly this draws wildlife. If you can afford it and would like to build these populations, leave small portions of your crop unharvested in thin strips, scattered patches, at field corners—or along field dikes, if you grow rice. A patch as small as 0.1 acre can provide a lot of winter feed—particularly in rice operations that use highly efficient stripper-header harvesters. This practice is quite popular on farms that operate hunting clubs. *Remember, if you plan to offer hunting, please conform with baiting laws and leave unharvested crops standing; do not mow or knock them down.*

Depending on your crop, the amount you

leave, and your bottom line, this practice may be less costly than you think. For example, one grain farmer who left 0.1 acre of wheat standing said he knew his seed and planting costs were small for the .1 acre, but was surprised that he gave up less than \$35 of profit that year by leaving a small patch of standing grain for wildlife.

## Benefits:

- Provides food and cover for pheasants, doves, quail, waterfowl, and song birds.
- Attracts wildlife to your land that can be hunted or viewed.
- Can offer a simple means of helping wildlife without significantly altering farming activities or profits in some operations.

*Build populations of pheasants, doves, quail, waterfowl, and songbirds by leaving thin strips or small patches of crop unharvested, such as the strip bordering this flooded field.*

